

## OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

### THEIR GROWTH AND PROGRESS.

#### Some Interesting Facts About the Public Schools—The Schools Will Have Funds Sufficient for All Purposes this Year.

The early history of the public school of Flagstaff is but a memory of the first settlers of the town, and from one of them the information is gleaned that the first school here was taught by Mrs. J. A. Marshall. The schoolhouse was a 12x14 room, built of logs, and was built by subscription, and the school teacher was paid by voluntary subscriptions, everybody giving liberally, so that there was no lack of funds to carry on the school. Five pupils attended the first term. The town soon outgrew the log school house, and a new frame building was erected on the present site of the electric light plant. The building was added to from time to time until it consisted of three rooms. In 1894 the schoolhouse was crowded to its utmost capacity, and more rooms must be had or a new school house be built. It was decided to build a modern school house and one large enough to admit of a considerable increase in the school population before overcrowding would again take place. The frame schoolhouse was sold to the Flagstaff Electric Light company and is now used by them for their plant.

Bonds to the extent of \$15,000 were voted for the erection of a two story brick building, and the result is the finest and most convenient public school building in northern Arizona.

The building is 77x90 feet 10 inches. The first floor contains four rooms, 28x28, and 14 feet to the ceiling, with convenient cloakrooms. The rooms

are separated by a 20-foot hall, which runs through the center of the building both ways. The second floor has two schoolrooms of the same dimensions as those on the first floor, and a chapel or assembly hall 26 feet 6 inches wide and 77 feet long, and from floor to ceiling it is 15 feet. The hall has a convenient stage and is used for school entertainments and as an assembly hall for the entire school. The exterior of the building presents a solid and attractive appearance.

The building was completed in 1895, in time to open school in October, and three rooms were used, but by the end of the term more room was wanted, as well as another teacher. In 1896 four rooms and four teachers were needed to fully accommodate the needs of the school. Another teacher will be needed in a few years, but the problem of room for the pupils has been solved for at least the next ten years.

The trustees of this district have used, as a rule, good judgment in the selection of teachers and each school year has seen an improvement in the standing of the pupils over the preceding year. The salaries paid the teachers are reasonable and it is the desire of each teacher that every dollar paid them be returned fourfold to the parents of the pupils in the interest taken in the instruction of the children. While the parent or the child may not realize it, the teacher has much to do with the moulding of the mind of the child that in after life will affect it for good or evil.

The present principal of the school is D. A. Drew, an experienced and painstaking educator. The grammar grade teacher is Miss Grace Dutton, who is now teaching her second year. Miss Mary Hennessy has charge of the intermediate department—for the third year. The second primary grade is taught by Miss Carra Finnie, who is